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Outdoors in georgia

November, 1972





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It's That Time of Year Again

Sportsmen and outdoorsmen alike enjoy sharing their experiences, exuberance and enthusiasm with their peers, with anyone who cares to listen and with that captive audience, their families; and everyone benefits from this telling it like it was. The common ground being a mutual interest in what's happening in Georgia's outdoors and the uncontrollable desire to tell others about it.

We at *Outdoors in Georgia* share these same feelings. We want to tell everyone about the good times that can be had in the fishing, hunting, boating, camping and scenic areas of our state. We want to talk about some of the special out-of-the-way places to wet a line and the best kind of bait or lure to use. We want to talk about Georgia's game animals and all the many activities related to hunting. We want to talk about camping, whether it be in the wilderness of some of our state parks or in the special camping areas and about hiking on our scenic nature trails.

We want to cover golfing, boating, skiing — both on water and on the north Georgia snows — not to mention panning for gold, canoeing

on the Flint and rafting on the Chattooga. And while doing all of these fun things, we want to talk about keeping an eye out toward preserving these unique outdoors activities so future generations can enjoy them as we do today.

That's our story and it's one for all times.

If you know a sportsman or outdoorsman who shares these same interests and concern about the good life in Georgia as we do, then why not give him or her a subscription to *Outdoors in Georgia*.

Remember, it's that time of year again, and *Outdoors in Georgia* is a perfect gift to show you care for someone who cares about Georgia and its outdoors.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bud Van Orden". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the main body of text.



Advanced Deer Hunting

By Marvin Tye

Hunting deer with a bow and arrow is one of the most exciting and challenging sports available for today's outdoorsman. It is not an activity for the man who must bring home a trophy every time he goes hunting.

It is rather a sport for the man who appreciates the outdoors and prefers to bag whatever game he can truly earn instead of being aided by mechanical gadgets and being assured that he can bag the game if he can see it.

Deer hunting with a rifle or shotgun is not easy. Far from it. The hunter must know where to find the game and how to get within the effective range of his weapon and then be able to shoot accurately to insure a clean kill.

For the bowhunter, these problems are magnified many times. While the rifleman can shoot a deer from 100 yards or more, the archer must be within 40 yards of his quarry to make an effective shot. The gunman can shoot with a minimum of movement, but the archer must move his arms and his bow considerably while the deer is at close range. This can cause the animal to flee before the man can release the arrow.

The deer's eyesight, hearing and sense of smell are most effective while

the hunter is at close range. This situation calls for the archer to do a lot of advance planning to insure getting that once-in-a-lifetime shot.

Hunting from a tree stand solves many of the problems faced by the bowhunter. He is above the deer's line of vision. His scent is also above the deer, especially in the mornings when the warm air rises. The hunter can move about without as much chance of spooking the deer and does not have to contend with dry leaves and other noisy objects on the ground.

The tree stand should be located between feeding and bedding areas, near buck rubs or scrapes. Rubs are the places where bucks rub the velvet from their antlers and can be distinguished by saplings where the bark has been peeled away by this activity. Scrapes are spots where the bucks have pawed up the ground and left other sign to attract a doe. If you can find a scrape during the mating season and set up your tree stand near it, your chances of getting a shot at a buck are good.

A number of archers use commercial deer scents to conceal their body odor from the deer. The most effective way to do this is to put a few drops of the scent on the ground near the tree stand or to place a rag soaked in

deer scent nearby. This attracts the deer's attention away from the hunter.

Almost as important as the techniques used to get close to deer is the selection of the bow and arrows to do the job. Arrow shafts are made of three materials, wood, glass and aluminum. Wood is less costly and aluminum is the most expensive material.

The chief advantage of wooden shafts is their low price. Their main disadvantages are that they will break easily and will warp when exposed to temperature extremes.

Glass is tougher and will not warp. Aluminum shafts are nearly as tough as glass, will not warp and can be more closely matched in weight and spine.

Just as you need a certain caliber cartridge for your rifle or a certain shell for your shotgun your arrows must be matched for your bow. Arrows that fly well from a 40-pound bow will not shoot as accurately from a 50-pound model. You must buy matched arrows for consistent accuracy.

Broadheads must be sharp and well-constructed to be effective. Most hunters prefer four-edged broadheads for their larger cutting area. If your broadhead is not sharp enough to shave dry hair from your arms, it is



Photos by Ted Borg

not sharp enough to hunt deer with. If it is sharp and well placed, it will kill a deer cleanly in a matter of seconds. An arrow kills by hemorrhage and if it is not sharp, it may only wound the animal or take a long time to do its job.

Laminated, recurved hunting bows are the most popular type on the market today. These can be purchased for just about any price the hunter is willing to pay. As in anything else, the highest quality models usually cost a bit more. Draw weight, the force required to pull the arrow back to full draw (usually 28 inches), is the prime consideration of most beginners. I believe that the hunter should use the heaviest weight that he can shoot accurately. "Accurately" is the key word in the preceding sentence. If a 40-pound bow is the largest that a hunter can shoot accurately, this is the size bow that he should use. If he can easily handle a 50-pound or heavier model, then he should use the heavier bow. An extra inch or so of penetration can make a big difference in some

cases. Georgia regulations require that an archer use a bow with a minimum weight of 40 pounds for deer hunting.

Arrows must be carried in a container called a quiver. There are three basic types of quivers and each has its own advantages. The bow quiver clamps onto the bow and holds as many as eight arrows ready for instant use. It keeps the broadheads from rubbing together and getting dull. A belt quiver straps around the waist, holds the points separately and can be tied around a tree trunk when the hunter is in a tree stand. A shoulder or back quiver hangs on the back and holds more arrows than either of the other types. It is rarely used by bowhunters because it is awkward to handle in a tree blind. In addition, the arrows rattle when the archer walks. The points rub together and dull easily when stored in a back quiver. Also, the archer must make a considerable amount of movement to pull an arrow out of this quiver and over his shoulder.

An arm-guard protects the shooter's

arm and also assures that the string will strike a smooth surface and not hang up in the archer's sleeve, thus causing a bad shot. A shooting glove or tab protects the archer's fingers and enables him to get a smooth release. The majority of bowmakers today seem to favor tabs over gloves.

Before going deer hunting, the archer should practice until he can place his shots accurately under field conditions. If he plans to do most of his hunting from a tree stand, he should get in a lot of practice shooting from an elevated position. He should use a deer-shaped target and practice until he can place nine out of ten shots in the rib cage. When actually hunting he should turn down any shot where he does not have an excellent chance of hitting this vital area. The archer who follows these guidelines is well on his way to success.

During the months of November and December of each year there are several special hunts that the archer can participate in. There is a fair chance that the bowhunter will get a

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shot at a wild hog as well as a deer on several of these hunts. Archers may compete with primitive weapons users in an either sex hunt on Bullard Creek Wildlife Management Area December 18-23. Bullard Creek also has a good wild hog population. There is a buck only primitive weapons hunt on B. F. Grant (Piedmont Experiment Station) December 4-9. Limits on all individual management area hunts are one deer per hunter. The hunter may

bag two deer in a season on management areas, but only one may be bagged on any individual hunt.

Permits for managed hunts are usually required and cost \$5. In addition to the required permit, the hunter must have an archery license and a big game license in his possession.

Bowhunts are held on Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge on November 21-24 and December 27-30. Hunters must camp on the island

during this hunt and must apply for a permit in advance.

Write to Refuge Manager, Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, Hardeeville, South Carolina for more information on the Blackbeard Island hunt.

Prospects for bowhunters on all state and federal areas are the best this year that they have been in a long time. If you are ready for more challenging hunting, give it a try. 



Witch Hazel

By Elaine and Joseph R. Fatora

Photo by Joseph R. Fatora



The ever-changing forests offer a rich and abundant diversity of plant and animal life. As the seasons progress from spring to fall, Mother Nature changes her palette from delicate pastel wildflower shades to the lush greenness of summer to the brilliant autumnal shades of yellow and scarlet. After October it seems that the woods are left to the sportsman—to the grays and browns of tree bark, squirrels, deer, and grouse. Fortunate is the sportsman who chances upon a shrub blooming in November, for he has come upon one of the earliest known of all herbal remedies—the witch-hazel.

The medicinal qualities of witch-hazel were discovered by the Indians who imparted their knowledge to white settlers, and to this day it has held the position of being a household necessity, listed as an official drug in the *U.S. Pharmacopoeia* and other pharmaceutical journals. Mild and gentle astringent, tonic, sedative, and hemostatic qualities are produced by the gallic and tannic acid contained in the plant. U.S.P. grade witch-hazel which is likely to be found in everyone's medicine chest is merely a distilled extract of dormant witch-hazel twigs to which alcohol has been added to curtail spoilage. It has been prescribed for use on bruises, burns, insect bites, inflammation, and even tired eyes. Today commercial witch-hazel extract is used to wet cotton compresses to be placed on sprains, bruises and burns. In early days boiling water was poured directly over witch-hazel leaves and the wilted leaves used as a hot poultice over the injury.

The “witching” qualities of forked witch-hazel boughs were extolled by early settlers who used them as divining-rods for water and precious ores. Today a bearded north Georgian may still exclaim “Thar’s a witch-tree.”

Divining and medicinal qualities or not, Euell Gibbons proclaims in *Stalking the Healthful Herbs*, “I consider witch-hazel the very epitome of all that a herbal remedy intended for home use should be.” He further suggests concocting a tea-like beverage from dried witch-hazel leaves and sweetening this camp-tea with maple sugar much as the Iroquois Indians did.

Witch-hazel usually grows in association with oaks and other cove hardwoods at elevations up to 5000 feet, occurring throughout the east from Maine to Florida and westward to the Plains. During spring and summer the tall shrub bears oval wavy-toothed leaves that are four to five inches long and downy when young. In



Photo by Joseph R. Fotoro

summer the fruit-like seed capsules form, mature, and burst, casting their hard nut-like seeds some 40 feet or more. In his journals Thoreau writes: “Heard in the night a snapping sound, and the fall of some small body on the floor from time to time. In the morning I found it was produced by the witch-hazel nuts on my desk springing open and casting their seeds quite across my chamber, hard and stony as these nuts were.”

Reversing the order of things, after defoliation occurs in fall, the witch-hazel flowers appear. Denuded of their leaves, branches of four-parted yellow flowers can be seen blooming in the woods from October through December. Do these autumnal flowers proclaim the last of this season, or perhaps, the first of the next? ➤



Deer Hunting Tips

By Ed Pearce

Hunting know-how is a blend of knowledge acquired first-hand, from talking with other hunters, and from reading about the experiences of others. It is this area in which the majority of today's hunters are weakest. You can be in perfect physical condition, wear the proper clothing, know your gear and how to use it, and even know how to field-dress your game and cook the meat; but these won't necessarily get the meat. It's like a football game in which one team leads in the statistics, but loses because of an intercepted pass, a fumble, a penalty or a missed kick: little things make the difference. Too many times a hunter fails to cash in on his one good chance because he has ignored some basic ideas.

Wild animals are just that—wild. What they do at all times is dictated by a most powerful force, the instinct to survive. From their infancy, they learn survival tactics from those of their kind who have survived: what and when to eat, what and when to drink, who and what their enemies are and do. As they mature, they develop these instincts to a high degree, as witnessed by the big-antlered buck who hides his rack in tree branches, or sits motionless in his bed as you pass by. He seems always to know

when to run and when to hide; his life depends on it. His sense of hearing, sight and smell, already keen at birth, further develop with age. It is said that an old buck never took a chance or risk he could avoid—and that's why he's an old buck.

But, he is not perfect, and you can capitalize on his failings. The deer has difficulty seeing a stationary object unless it is outlined against a lighter background. His eyesight is geared to motion. Concealed in a blind, I have had old bucks browse to within 30 feet of me. They could neither see, hear, nor smell me; their defenses were down. If you're still hunting, avoid movement of any kind. If you must move, do so as slowly as possible. Move your eyes, not your head. Don't smoke, don't shuffle your feet and don't chew gum. With his keen eyesight, he'll pick up your slightest movement.

He is not looking for enemies from above. Where the law allows, use a high seat in a tree for still hunting, but continue to remain as motionless as possible.

His sense of smell is governed almost entirely by the wind. In those areas where the wind is fairly constant, especially valleys and hills, place your blind downwind from the

trails; in other areas you will have to provide a lookout to accommodate morning and evening wind changes.

Hearing probably is his keenest sense. The slightest unfamiliar noise, even the light scratching of brush against pants, can spook him. In a blind or tree-stand, this means avoid moving your weapon, your binoculars or your feet, each of which could brush on the tree or blind. In stalking, move only a few steps at a time, then stop dead still; try to avoid brushing against anything or stepping on twigs, etc. Have you ever watched a deer feeding through the woods? He moves slowly, carefully placing each foot, and raising his head for a look around and testing the wind at frequent intervals. Do as he does and you won't be wrong.

Whether you're stalking or still hunting, watch your background. Don't get outlined against the sky at the top of a hill, against an opening in the woods, against low bushes or on the edge of a woods. When I first enter woods from an open field, I stoop over until I am completely surrounded by trees or high bushes. I've often sighted deer while still in the stooped position.

Watch your backtrail when you're stalking. Frequently a deer will circle

around and, overcome by curiosity, stand there watching as you move forward. I've bagged several bucks on my backtrail; in every instance they stood still. You sometimes can trade on a deer's curiosity. I once hunted with a man who carried a dog whistle. The whistle sometimes made a running deer stop and the hunter got a stationary target instead of a running one.

Probably no one other thing can contribute so much to your hunting success as pre-scouting the hunting area. You can locate the runways or trails, learn the prevailing wind direction, and select the best spot or spots for your blind, high-seat or stalk. If you do it quietly, the chances are you'll also locate some game, and that adds to your incentive. You also can determine the best way to get your game back to the auto or camp.

I do *not* hunt on the opening day of

Snakes! Contrary to the tall tales, snakes will not chase you. If they see you in time, they'd rather escape. They will, however, defend their ground when cornered or surprised. Rattlers do not always rattle before they strike, and all snakes can and do strike without coiling. It's up to you to avoid the places where you're most likely to encounter poisonous snakes. Be careful around water where moccasins are usually found. Many tired hunters have slumped on a stump or a fallen tree and been bitten. Many more fail to look before they step near low bushes or over a fallen log. Most hunters, especially in the southern states, wear their trousers *outside* their pacs or boots to help prevent snakebite. I've reason to believe this a good idea: several years ago, in the Chattahoochee National Forest in northern Georgia, I was tracking a wounded deer. After crossing a small stream, I was clambering up the bank when a three-foot timber rattler, without rattling, struck.

vey, Washington, D.C. Index maps by states are available. Select the quadrangle at the largest scale available; they range from scales of 1:62,500 (15-minute quads) to 1:24,000 (1 inch equals 2,000 feet). Other maps are published, but the quad sheets are the best for hunting.

If you can't get a published map, make your own as you pre-scout the area. Show all prominent landmarks—highways, streams, roads, hills, mountains, lakes, electric power lines and pole numbers, etc. Using your compass, identify East and West and enter them on your map. Pinpoint your camp or auto on the map.

Before you hunt, tell your companions the direction in which you will hunt. Go with at least one buddy and stay within shouting distance. Carry or wear a watch and allow ample time to return before nightfall.

If you do get lost, periodically fire three evenly spaced shots and don't move. Two evenly spaced shots will signify that your shots have been heard. Use your signalling flares. If night comes, clear the ground in an open part of the woods (a hilltop is

of the season, on holidays or weekends. They've proven to be the most hazardous days because they bring out the inexperienced hunters. More than 70% of the accidents and the unsuccessful hunts occur on these days.

Be extremely careful around any wounded animal for even the smallest can put up a terrific fight. Until you're absolutely sure the animal is dead, keep your distance and be ready to shoot again. A second shot from a short distance placed immediately behind either foreleg might prevent a serious injury—use it when in doubt.

Don't hunt alone. The everpresent danger of snakebite, falls, accidental shooting, or wounded animals are sufficient reasons never to hunt alone. At least use the buddy system; if you get lost, and no one knows even generally where you are or that you're hunting, you can disappear. It has happened more than once, even in the populous eastern states.

His fangs hung in my trousers, just above the top of my pacs, but they did not penetrate the leather portion of the pacs.

Be careful when your hands or arms get close to the ground. Remember that the main defense of the snake is his camouflage, and be alert.

If you're bitten, first kill the snake (for later identification) then use the snakebite kit. Follow its directions closely. Don't run or walk! Move about as little as possible and get help. Fire three evenly spaced shots, the universal call for help, and continue to do so until you get help. Remain calm; it may mean your life.

Don't get lost. Learn to read a map and to use your pocket compass. You can do both by studying *Mapping* by David Greenwood (University of Chicago Press). Obtain a quadrangle map of the area you're to hunt from the U.S. Geological Sur-

best) and build a fire—they'll find you.

Watch the weather. Bad weather can dampen the best spirits. Heavy rain or falling snow reduce your field of vision and your shooting accuracy, and therefore greatly lessen your chance of bagging any game. I've found that most game stopped moving in such circumstances. Now, I return to the auto or camp, make myself comfortable, and wait it out. Before planning a hunt, check the weather forecasts. You may save yourself time and trouble.

If you follow these tips, you'll increase your chances of a successful hunt. As they become part of your hunting know-how, they'll provide a sound base to which you can add your own experiences.



DUCK IDENTIFICATION



Prepared by Donald W. Pfitzer, *Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife*

After making the first choice offered at the top of the page follow the black lines to secondary choices until the correct identification has been made.

START HERE

DOES YOUR DUCK



Bill broad, typically ducklike

Wing patch gray, nonmetallic or wing uniform in color



Bill without two rings



Head flattish, sloping with straight line appearance from forehead to bill



CANVASBACK

Bill with two bluish-white rings, one at the base and one near the tip



RING-NECKED DUCK

Head rounded with angle at forehead and bill



White or whitish cheek patch



RUDDY DUCK

Head uniformly reddish or yellowish brown



REDHEAD

White face patch behind eye



BUFFLEHEAD

No white face patch, or if present, in front of eye



White wing patch with black or dark feathers in center



GADWALL

White wing patch without black or dark feathers in center

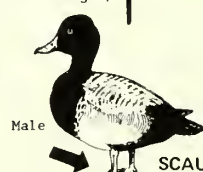


Feet yellow



GOLDENEYE

Feet gray



SCAUP

Wing patch iridescent blue, purple, green, brown or black or white



Wing patch white



Wing patch brown



PINTAIL

Wing patch green, brown or black or white



Wing patch bluish



Wing patch bordered on both sides with white



Male



Female

MALLARD

Head crested feathers



Female

WOOD DUCK

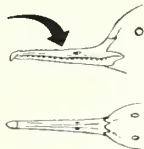
Florida ducks, mottled ducks and canvas ducks are very similar to each other. These may be separated by feather characteristics.

GUIDE FOR HUNTERS

START HERE

DOES YOUR DUCK HAVE

Bill slender, pointed, and toothed



Feet yellow or yellowish-gray

Feet pink or reddish



HOODED MERGANSER



COMMON MERGANSER



RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Wing patch blue, purple, green or black



Wing patch blue

Wing patch green or black



Wing patch without white border or white only at feather tips



Blue patch on shoulder of wing



Patch on shoulder of wing not blue



Bill very large and broad, feet orange or coral-red

Bill normal, feet yellow



SHOVELER



BLUE-WINGED TEAL

Shoulder of wing gray or brownish



GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Shoulder of wing with white patch



AMERICAN WIDGEON

Female American widgeon has brown breast and flank. Female green-wing teal has gray speckled breast and flank.

Cinnamon teal is similar to blue-wing teal except that male cinnamon teal is reddish on head and underparts. The female is virtually identical to the female blue-wing teal.

Head yellow

Head not crested, feet orange-red or coral red



BLACK DUCK

New Mexico black ducks. Males more similar to females. Feather colors more separated.



Florida Duck

This pictorial aid is designed to assist in recognizing ducks in the hand after they have been bagged.

The shape of the bill, wing markings, color of feet or head crest are some of the typical characteristics used to identify ducks in the hand. This is quite different from identification of ducks in flight or sitting on water. When flying or on water other identifying features are used such as silhouettes, mannerisms of flight, wing beat, speed of flight or color patterns on body and wings. Every effort should be made to learn to recognize ducks before they are shot. By doing this the hunter is able to take much greater advantage of his sport.

Although occasionally seen inland, sea ducks are not included in this key. They are most frequently found in open salt water areas.





Ducks

By Oscar Dewberry

Photos by Ted Borg

During the 1972-73 waterfowl hunting season two of our finest game ducks cannot be legally hunted in Georgia and many other states. These ducks, the canvasback (*Aythya valisneria*) and redhead (*A. americana*) join an increasing number of wild-life species whose numbers are declining. The season is closed nationwide on canvasback and hunting will only be permitted in the Pacific Flyway states on redheads. Neither duck is found in great number in that flyway and in sections the canvasback is incidental in the bag. The most famous wintering area for the canvasback is the coastal regions of Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina, while the redhead is widely distributed from coast to coast.

Since both birds have excellent sporting characteristics by their size, speed of flight, waterfowl wariness and table qualities, this regulation will be considered unwelcome by

many. However, if we consider the reasons this regulation was imposed, our opinion may change.

Waterfowl populations throughout North America are facing crisis. Man's encroachment into wetland areas of Canada and the prairie states have had their effects. Although the canvasback and redhead are widely distributed over North America, the redhead's breeding range is more southern, extending south from Central Canada into the North Central States. Sections of those states and provinces are becoming more urban whereas agricultural practices and drainage programs have been a nemesis to waterfowl for more than a decade.

Both species feed heavily upon vegetable matter and pollution has destroyed vast amounts of aquatic plants and other winter foods in bay and estuarine areas once so important as wintering areas. Unseasonable winter storms have affected these species as canvasbacks are one of the late migrants, thus becoming more susceptible to freeze-up, and late winter storms have destroyed early

nesting attempts. However, the worst condition affecting all waterfowl is drought.

Drought conditions in the major nesting areas from 1958-1963 severely reduced the amount and quality of waterfowl habitat. Low production rates caused populations of redhead and canvasback to decline. Progressively restrictive regulations were imposed in the United States and Canada in 1958 and 1959, and finally to closed seasons from 1960 through 1963. During those years populations of each specie increased appreciably and the season was reopened in 1964 with a daily bag of 2 birds in most states. Data collected by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in their Waterfowl Parts Collection Section at Patuxent Research Station, Laurel, Maryland indicates another decrease began before the 1967 season.

In 1966 the daily bag was reduced in the Pacific Flyway States from 7 in California, 6 in Montana, Nevada and New Mexico and 5 elsewhere to 2. In 1967 the daily bag was reduced from two to one in the Atlantic, Mis-



in Trouble

Mississippi and Pacific Flyway states. During the same year (1967) the nationwide canvasback kill was down 65 percent in the Atlantic, 36 in the Mississippi, 41 in the Central and 51 in the Pacific Flyways. Figures are not available for redheads but their decline is not as evident as the canvasback. However, by comparing data of the hunter kill surveys to wing collection surveys, indications are that factors other than hunting pressure may be involved. For instance, in the Mid-Atlantic States a shift was noted in canvasback populations to areas where they were less vulnerable to shooting.

During the nationwide mid-winter waterfowl survey conducted annually in early January by state and federal biologists, evidence of extremely low populations was found in both species this year. In Georgia, only 2,000 canvasbacks were recorded and even fewer redheads. Total figures in the Atlantic Flyway states were 88,000 canvasbacks and 134,900 redheads. Breeding ground surveys this summer indicate little change from last year.

The Status of Waterfowl and 1972 Fall Flight Forecast released by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in July indicated a 32 percent increase in canvasback but a 35 percent reduction in redheads. With such biological data the administrator has little alternative except to close the season.

Prior to the nesting season this year there probably were less than 400,000 canvasback in North America. Recent observations indicates the spring sex ratios for canvasback is 70 percent males and 30 percent females, yet there is a 60:40 male — female sex ratio in kill records. Therefore, if the true sex ratio is somewhere between, there would be 120,000 to 160,000 nesting pairs. We know that these figures do not account for all the birds in existence and as indicated earlier, instances have been found where significant numbers have been missed in winter surveys. Large flocks may also be underestimated and scattered birds overlooked.

Although redheads have not showed as abrupt a decline as the canvas-

back, they are more vulnerable to the gun and are heavily shot in canvasback and scaup areas. Thus, it is generally assumed that the same regulation should apply to redheads and canvasbacks in the eastern part of their winter range. Even though both populations are lower than desirable they are not on the brink of extinction. Since both species have overcome low populations in the past, we can be optimistic about their future. If landowners and hunters cooperate with established regulations, the canvasback and redhead can again be included in the waterfowl hunters daily bag.

Regardless of the hunter's interpretation of the need for this regulation he should not misconstrue the regulation to have been imposed by the non-hunting advocate. It is simply the result of sound game management practices. Those hunting waterfowl and who may fire at canvasbacks and redheads should consider the impact his shots and those of other hunters may have upon the overall population if all were successful. 



Georgiology

By Allen R. Coggins
Parks and Recreation Division

Photos by The Author

*Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That wants it down.*

From *Mending Wall*
By Robert Frost

Along the northern face of Fort Mountain, one of the peaks of the Cohutta range of north Georgia, lies an ancient and mysterious rock wall. There has long been speculation as to the origin and purpose of this structure which has withstood many years of attack first by the elements and in recent times by treasure hunters.

The very name of Fort Mountain suggests one theory as to why the mysterious stone works were constructed and many believe it was built for just that purpose—fortification. Others believe the walls were raised by ceremonialists as a place where they might pursue their pagan rites and rituals. Many seemingly credible explanations have been advanced as to the origin and purpose of the enclosure, yet each has its loop-holes, and no one is entirely satisfied with any of the explanations. The lack of artifacts either within or near the structure has not helped matters any, and has led many to conclude that we will never really know the secrets of the wall nor the ancient cult that built it.

On the other hand, it may not be necessary to have artifacts in order to identify the origin or purpose of such a structure. Approximate time of origin, location, orientation, and similarity to other sites which might themselves be easier to interpret, could yield the answers we seek.

The stone wall at Fort Mountain lies within a State Park in Murray County about 7 miles east of Chatsworth, Georgia. The site is reached via U. S. Highway 76 and Georgia Highway 52. It is situated near the summit of the most prominent peak of the Cohutta range at the terminus of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The elevation is just over 2,800 feet.

The land on which the wall rests was donated to the State of Georgia in 1934 by the late Ivan Allen, a prominent Atlanta businessman. Mr. Allen had dreamed of owning the old fort since childhood. After acquiring it in the 20's, he planned to develop it as a resort so that the world might come to realize its significance. He abandoned his ideas of a luxury hotel, golf course, campsites and summer residences in favor of state own-

ership and operation. After his donation, the area was developed by the U.S. Department of Interior as a recreation demonstration area under the Roosevelt Administration. Several years later the state took up operation of the area.

The 885-foot long wall as it stands today zigzags irregularly across the northern face of the mountain crest serpent-like and is bounded on both sides by sheer cliffs. It averages two to three feet in height and up to 12 feet in width. There is speculation that the wall might have been higher at one time, possibly as high as five to seven feet, but as I wrote earlier, *...something there is that doesn't love a wall, That wants it down...* Today the wall is composed of four distinct sections by two breaks probably of recent origin and a third made by the collapsed entrance-way. Scattered more or less equally along the wall are twenty-nine rounded depressions known locally as "sentry pits." The origin and purpose of these pits is not known. It has been suggested that they were formed long after the wall was constructed. Since

the pits were not mentioned in some early report it seems highly unlikely that they would not have been described had they been present. There is a good possibility that the pits were dug by "treasure hunters" as far back as the early 1800's.

The rocks composing the wall are rather flat and are fitted together without the use of mortar. Some rather large rock outcroppings, which break the surface of the ground along the wall, have been incorporated into its construction. The wall, which joins sheer cliff on either side of the north face of the mountain, isolates the summit and the entrance (now destroyed) was once the only way into the enclosure.

Theories as to the origin and purpose of the wall have been many and varied. Several of these have been reviewed by other writers and it seems as if each writer had his favorite or preferred explanation as to origin. One theory concludes that the wall was built for defense against hostile Indians by a tribe of "white" Indians called the Moon-eyed People. These people, perhaps Welchmen or albinos, were said to have lived in Georgia during the tenth or eleventh century A.D. The Cherokee called them Moon-eyed People because they avoided the daylight. This is one point in favor of the albino idea. Some have proposed that they might

have been the same "white" Indians which Captain John Smith of the Jamestown Colony wrote about. Perhaps they were even members of Prince Madoc of Wales' team since the fortification at Fort Mountain resembles ones built by the Welch for protection from William the Conqueror's siege of 1066. That the wall at Fort Mountain resembled the ones in Wales is not surprising, since all walls have some resemblance to each other, especially those constructed of similar materials.

This theory is dubious since most modern archaeologists and scholars subscribe to the idea that the Welch never really invaded the interior of what is now the southeastern United States.

Others attribute the building of the structure to Hernando DeSoto and his party as they passed through Georgia in 1540 in search of gold and other riches. Here too, the structure is supposed to have been built for protection from hostile Indians. According to historians, DeSoto's route did not take him anywhere near Fort Mountain, and more importantly, he did not stay in one place long enough to have constructed such a fortification. Furthermore, DeSoto's own records make no reference to the construction of such a structure in north Georgia. There is another theory that the wall was the handywork of other

Spaniards who, following leads brought back from the DeSoto expedition, had come upon opposition from the local "Red Men." This theory too has been dismissed by most serious students of the subject, since it does not seem practical that they would spend the time to build so large a fortification, on a waterless ridge-top, where there existed no avenue of escape.

The idea that the Indians built the wall for defense against another more aggressive tribe has also been advanced with a foot-note explaining that no battle ever occurred since arrow and spear points are entirely wanting within or without the wall.

Other miscellaneous theories include the one about British agents building the fort during the Revolution, using the fortification as a base of operation. All these theories have proven erroneous for one reason or another and hence, dismissed by those who have actively sought the truth about the origin and purpose of the Fort Mountain site.

So go the various early theories. More recent archaeological investigation of similar sites has given new light to the mystery of Fort Mountain. Because of this, it is now possible to answer many of the questions which have perplexed us in the past.

There are two schools of thought



The pit shown at right is but one of many spread more or less at equal intervals along the wall. These were probably made by 19th Century "treasure hunters." The pits are very prominent features but are not mentioned in earlier writings.



concerning the question of why the stone works at Fort Mountain and at other sites were constructed. The first theory is that the wall was built for the purpose of fortification. The second theory says that the structure was built for ceremonial reasons.

Its strategic location on high ground which affords a good view of the countryside would lend favor to the defensive theory. The terrain is rugged on all but the approach side and all considered, it would appear that this was definitely a fort. On the other hand, the nearest water supply is a spring over 1200 feet straight down the approachway. The wall is not high enough to afford good defense and there is no indication that palisading ever existed atop the wall to raise its height. The acreage inside the structure is far too great for anything short of a vast army to defend. The troops would have been too divided to be effective during an assault. It has also been suggested that if the site had been occupied by a large force, occupation debris would

surely be present, and none is. It is also interesting to note that American Indians did not build walls, hide behind them and wait to be attacked; they raided and fought hand-to-hand. The object of battle was not so much how many were killed as it was how well one fought. The Indians, at least, can be ruled out on this point alone.

The ceremonial theory seems much more logical and is fairly well accepted by most experts today. If the site were used for ceremonial purposes only on religious occasions, there would not necessarily be any occupation debris. In fact, the site might have been swept clean periodically to rid the area of what might be considered mortal contamination. Since the beginning of time, men have sought high places in which to worship, hence the top of Fort Mountain would be a likely site. It is also likely that worshippers would mark their ceremonial ground in some manner. The purpose of such a wall would be to keep the uninvited out or the spirits in. Other stone and

earthen enclosures have been found both in valleys and on high places throughout much of the eastern United States. Some, but not all, of the enclosures like the site at Fort Mountain were built around the crest of a hill, and most contain no artifacts. Due to similarities, we can definitely assume a relationship between these various structures. These differences can be explained by the individual personalities and local traditions of builders, the type building materials used, and the topography of the land on which the construction took place.

Two early investigators (Squire and Davis) have described and divided the various enclosures found throughout the Ohio Valley, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama into two types — earthen and stone. Some are crude and some rather elaborately laid out. The earthen types have been found mostly along river valleys in association with burial mounds, whereas the stone types have usually been associated with high places.

Representatives of the latter type are Fort Mountain, the sites in Fayette County, West Virginia; Saline County, Missouri; Lexington, Kentucky; Manchester County and Lookout Mountain, Tennessee; Habersham County, Catoosa County, Ladd Mountain, Stone Mountain, and Panola Mountain, Georgia; and DeSoto Falls in Northeast Alabama. These sites and others show similarities that cannot be dismissed as coincidence.

The sites along the Ohio Valley are believed to have been constructed by people belonging to the Adena and Hopewell Cultures of what archaeologists call the Early to Middle Woodland Period. These cultures are known to have had a strong influence on other Woodland Indians of this period, including those in Georgia. In fact, it is the opinion of most archaeologists today that local Woodland Indians built the stone enclosures mentioned above, and that this practice was due to the influence of the Adena and Hopewell Cultures. This cultural influence was probably spread southward from the Ohio Valley along trade routes prior to the time of the birth of Christ.

This Woodland Period ranged from about 1500 BC to about 700 AD. Archaeologists have conveniently divided this period into three subdivi-

sions, the early, middle and late. Woodland cultures have also been credited with the building of conical burial mounds found throughout the eastern United States. These Indians practiced primitive agriculture and lived in small villages. The larger Temple mounds, such as those at Kolomoki near Blakely and at Etowah near Cartersville, were built by Indians of another period, at a much later date. It is felt that the different style flat-top mound built by the Kolomoki and Etowah Indians was influenced by the cultures of Meso-America. Again, the influence was spread along trade routes from Mexico northward into eastern United States.

Although the Fort Mountain enclosure was once entirely shrouded in mystery, we now know many of its secrets. The modern day science of archaeology has been the key to our success and with each passing day, new knowledge brings us closer and closer to an understanding of primitive man.

We hope you will visit Fort Mountain State Park and walk the trail to the stone enclosure. It's a beautiful view and a very different kind of feeling to stand where a primitive cult once stood worshipping a strange god of a forgotten era. ➤





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Quail Capital of the World—Part II	December	66	14	Federation Convention)	February	69	5
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Rabbits Gone?)	December	68	1	A Night in the Eagle's Nest	June	72	2
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Meet Jones (R. Y.)	December	67	8	A Photo Feature			
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Ride with the Ranger				(Editorial)			
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TITLE	MONTH	YEAR	PAGE	TITLE	MONTH	YEAR	PAGE
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(Tan Your Own Hide)				Trout Time	April	72	14
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Zero In (Firing Range Practice)	November	68	6	Turkey Trick	March	67	10
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Georgia Teachers Go to School	February	70	11	TURKEY, Management			
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				Hunt the Longbills	December	69	10

Sportsman's Calendar

DOVES: December 2 through January 13. Daily shooting hours are from 12 noon until sunset. The daily bag limit is 12 and the possession limit is 24.

DUCKS: December 2 through January 20. Bag limit is 5 daily with the possession limit of 10. Limits on ducks are one black duck daily and two in possession, four mallards daily and eight in possession, and two wood ducks daily and four in possession.

CANVASBACK, REDHEAD DUCKS, BRANT AND GEESE: There is no open season.

COOTS: December 2 through January 20. Bag limit is 15 daily with the possession limit of 20.

FOX: There is no closed season on the taking of fox. It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take any fox, within the State, by use or aid of recorded calls or sounds or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of calls or sounds.

GROUSE: October 14 through February 28. Bag limit 3 daily with the possession limit of 6.

WILD HOGS: Hogs are considered non-game animals in Georgia. They are legally the property of the landowner, and cannot be hunted without his permission, except on public lands. Firearms are limited to shotguns with Number 4 shot or smaller, .22 rimfire rifles, centerfire rifles with bore diameter .225 or smaller, all caliber pistols,

muzzle loading firearms and bows and arrows.

OPOSSUM: October 16 through February 28 in Carroll, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Barrow, Jackson, Madison, Elbert, and all counties north of those listed. No bag limit. Night hunting allowed. All counties south of the above named counties are open year round for the taking of opossum. No bag limit. Night hunting allowed.

QUAIL: November 20 through February 28. Statewide season. Bag limit 12 daily with the possession limit of 36.

RABBIT: November 20 through January 31 in the counties of Carroll, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Hall, Habersham, and all counties north of those listed. Bag limit 5 daily. November 20 through February 28 in all counties south of the above listed counties. Bag limit 10 daily.

RACCOON: October 16 through February 28 in Carroll, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Barrow, Jackson, Madison, Elbert and all counties north of those listed. Bag limit 1 per night per person. Night hunting allowed. All counties south of the above named counties are open year round for the taking of raccoons. No bag limit. Night hunting allowed.

SQUIRREL: November 4 through February 28. Bag limit 10 daily.

TURKEY: November 20 through February 28 in Baker, Calhoun, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Thomas Counties. Bag limit 2 per year.



the OUTDOOR WORLD

UNCOMMON HUNTER

It was a Tuesday morning, early and cold. The deer stand had been built weeks earlier. It wasn't quite an ordinary deer stand, but more like a duck blind with a plywood floor. Not beautiful, but adequate. Tommy Clack occupied the stand, and he was ready.

Tommy waited, and waited . . . and finally two does and a buck slipped into the clearing. He tried to fire, but the round was not completely chambered in his automatic and nothing happened. He had to remove that round and reload. After a few hectic moments, Tommy fired and downed a five point buck with one shot.

The story is not uncommon (except that the deer did not get away) but Tommy Clack is. He is a disabled veteran, severely wounded while on patrol in Vietnam, who lost both legs and his right arm.

Following his release from the hospital, Tommy Clack returned to Georgia and became active as a public speaker and member of the Dekalb Jaycees.

—Janey Beadles



BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Back issues of Georgia GAME & FISH and OUTDOORS IN GEORGIA listed below may be ordered at \$.25 each as long as the supply lasts. Issues not listed are not available.

1966

None

1967

None

1968

June

October

December

1969

January

March

May

June

August

November

December

1970

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

1971

All except February

1972

All except June

GEORGIA LAKE MOST POPULAR

Lake Sidney Lanier is the most popular Corps of Engineers lake in the nation. Recently released attendance figures show three other Georgia lakes also ranked in the top ten this year.

Last season approximately 13,702,500 persons visited top-ranked Lanier to enjoy its recreational facilities. Lake Allatoona, only 42 miles north of Atlanta, placed third with 6,962,300 visitors.

Lake Hartwell was the fourth ranking lake in the survey, with a visitor count of 5,615,500. Clark Hill Reservoir entertained 4,581,900 visitors for a ninth place standing.

—Janey Beadles

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